

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please cancel claims 1-9 and replace with new claims 10-18 as attached hereto.

REMARKS

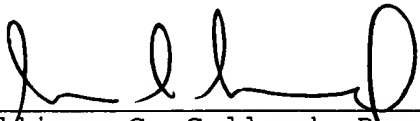
By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to the related application has been inserted on page 1. Also, claims 1-9 have been replaced by new claims 10-18. No new matter has been introduced.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa L. Vulpis

CLAIMS

Ad 10. A self-inking hand stamp (1) with upper impact inking, comprising a stamp housing (2) in which a stamp aggregate (3) is arranged which is capable of moving from an inking position on an ink pad (4) into a stamping position, with an actuating frame (8) as well as a reversing mechanisms being associated with the stamp aggregate for said purpose, whereby the actuating frame (8), the latter comprising a top side, two broad sides opposing each other, and two narrow sides opposing each other, is mounted in the form of a cap on the top part of the stamp housing (2) and comprises two legs (9, 10) for actuating the stamp aggregate (3), said legs resting laterally on the stamp housing (2), and can be depressed relative to the stamp housing (2) against spring force, and is provided on the top side with a receiving recess (17) for accommodating an information sheet (18), with a detachably mounted, transparent cover (24) being associated with said receiving recess, characterized in that the receiving recess (17), with lateral limitation towards the narrow sides, extends continually from the top side (16) of the actuating frame (8) to at least one of the broad sides (19, 20) of said actuating frame; and that the transparent cover (24) is correspondingly curved from the top side to at least one of the broad sides and formed as one single piece.

11. The self-inking hand stamp according to claim 10, characterized in that the receiving recess (17) extends with a generally U-shaped cross section to both broad sides (19, 20) of the actuating frame (8); and that the cross section of the transparent cover (24) is substantially U-shaped.

12. The self-inking hand stamp according to claim 10, characterized in that the transparent cover (24) comprises on its inner surface on the edge side locking projections (25; 25a, 25b) for snapping into locking recesses (26; 26a, 26b) located on the edge of the receiving recess (17).

13. The self-inking hand stamp according to claim 12, characterized in that a strip-like, center locking projection (25) shaped by molding on each of the edges of the transparent cover (24), with a corresponding, oblong locking window (26) being associated with said locking projection on the respective edge of the receiving recess (17).

14. The self-inking hand stamp according to claim 12, characterized in that the locking projections (25; 25a, 25b) form at the same time a means for holding the information sheet (18) on the inner side of the transparent cover (24).

15. The self-inking hand stamp according to claim 10, characterized in that the receiving recess (17) is provided with at least one edge-side support protrusion (27) for supporting the edge of the transparent cover (24).

16. The self-inking hand stamp according to claim 15, characterized in that provision is made in the receiving recess (17) in the broad side area on the edge for a shoulder-like support protrusion (27) extending adjacent to the narrow sides to the top side with its height close to zero.

17. The self-inking hand stamp according to claim 10, characterized in that the top side of the receiving recess (17), at the area of the broad sides, extends slightly curved at the most as compared to the curved transparent cover (24).

18. The self-inking hand stamp according to claim 10, characterized in that the transparent cover (24) is curved both in the transverse and longitudinal directions.